

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1 - 10 and 12 - 65 are pending.

A substitute specification is submitted herewith as Appendix A in response to the Examiner's request. The substitute specification includes the amendments made in a response mailed December 17, 2003 in connection with objections to the specification raised in an Office action mailed August 22, 2003. Withdrawal of those objections, repeated in sections 4 - 7 of the instant Office action, is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 13, 23, 32, 42, and 56 have been amended to more specifically recite distinctive aspects of the present invention over the prior art. For example, claim 1, recites a first web server. A client exchanges HTML content with the first web server to submit a request for postage. The first web server interacts with a second web server using SSL protocol to obtain from the second web server information for printing an indicium.

The reference to Shah et al. shows a resetting PC (120, Fig. 6) in communication with an SMD (210). Shat et al. do not show a client that communicates HTML content to the resetting PC to select postage. Shah et al. do not show that the resetting PC communicates with the SMD using SSL protocol to obtain information for printing an indicium. In sum, Shah et al. do not teach the present invention as recited in the pending claims.

The reference to Carroll et al. shows a subsystem (10, Fig. 1A) for determining postage rate, to which a subsystem (20) communicates to obtain postage rate information. The subsystem (20) is connected to a postage meter (40). Carroll et al. do not show that the subsystem (20) communicates HTML content to the subsystem (10) to select postage. Carroll et al. do not show that the subsystem (10) communicates SSL protocol to the postage meter (40) to obtain information for printing an indicium. Carroll et al. do not anticipate the present invention as recited in the pending claims.

The reference to Bator et al. a PC (20, Fig. 1) in communication with a data center (30). The data center includes a communication server (32) that merges incoming traffic from multiple customers and routes it to a function server (34). The function server dispenses postage. *Col. 5, lines 35 - 43*. A user's request is thus handled by the function server (34) via the

communication server (32). Bator et al. do not show that the function server (34) then communicates SSL protocol to another server to obtain postage. Instead, Bator et al. teach that the server to which the user's postage request is directed (i.e., the function server), also performs the function of dispensing postage. Bator et al. therefore do not show the present invention as recited in the pending claims.

The Section 102 rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome. The dependent claims are also believed to be allowable over the cited art, as the combinations of the cited reference do not suggest the foregoing discussed aspects of the present invention.


Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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